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of a medical man costs money, and under our present system he has no source of income other than his fees, for his own and his family's support. Making all allowance for the traditional and very real charity of the medical profession, it is too much to expect that such service can be more than a partial effort while both doctor and patient suffer from an economic inhibition, the one disturbed by big inroads into his professional time with at best but the hope of inadequate remuneration; the other fearful of the financial stress this unexpected and unprovided expense is sure to cause the family, resulting too often in a long put off call when it is too late to do any good. Travelling clinics and Government subsidized doctors are to some extent meeting such conditions in the Western provinces, where, of course, the great distances from the centres accentuate the problem of adequate medical service. Red Cross and other organizations do their part, and do it well. Government medical health officers and nurses cover what ground and labour their number and physical resources will permit; but, with it all, one is obliged to recognize that there are still many of our people who are not getting the service modern medicine and surgery have to offer. State medicine has been suggested as a remedy, and there is much to be said for combining a modified State service with private practice, the one being supplement or complement of the other. In fact, government health departments, as at present constituted, are capable of development in the direction of State medicine. For instance, in Nova Scotia the pathological laboratories belong to the province and their two departments, each under a skilled expert, render a free service to the whole province. We have, therefore, a modern scientific centre closely linked with the hospitals and doctors. Tissue examination, the last to go on the free list, is designed to strike a blow at the increasing incidence of cancer by enabling doctors to make an early diagnosis. In communicable diseases the laboratories are a constant centre of appeal. It is here the hidden germ is isolated and studied, and here, too, are made the numerous vaccines and sera which research has proved useful in curing and combating these diseases. Clinical data coming from the practitioner in the towns or countryside are linked up with the evidence of the microscope and the dicta of biological chemistry; and so far as human effort can contrive, the patient is given his best weapons of defence and cure. In a word, public health organization unites the powers of the clinical and the strictly scientific, and focusses them on the patient himself. We can find no more striking example than this of public health organization working at its best.

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More than half the efforts of health departments have to do with prevention of disease, or what we call preventive medicine. It is the offspring of the discoveries of Lister and Pasteur. In many ways it is the most vitally significant activity in our modern life. It has placed the medical art on an elevation it never knew before, because it is more blessed to prevent than to cure. Here it is often true that the patient must minister to himself. He must know something of the subtleties of diseases, that he may learn to avoid them. He must know of the part sane living, hygiene and a proper adaptation of the mental and bodily forces bear to the various phases and exigencies of life. He must know that without good health there is no happiness, and without this element, community and national life become a dreary and purposeless business, a suitable breeding ground for those social disorders which like rank weeds spring from the unhealthy soil of a decadent nation. He must know, finally, that he is practising a high type of patriotism when in his community he maintains by precept and example the highest standards of public health. And the health departments must help him to do all this. Their job is to lead the way by advancing health education, and by placing within the people's reach those agencies which science and economics have evolved and perfected to prevent the spread and virulence of disease. They may approach the many sided problems in as many different ways, for methods must vary often to meet the relentless demand of circumstances; but the obligation itself is fixed and definite, and its execution alone is the warrant for the efforts of Governments in creating effective health machinery at the public expense.

Health and Education, as departments of government, must start hand in hand and travel a goodly part of the way together; in fact, they should always be within calling distance, with the universities and schools sending out their latest discoveries to help to illumine the way. Health education properly woven into the work of the common school will do more in moulding a practical and effective community interest in the things that make and keep people well than any amount of effusive and, as it often is, extravagant propaganda. And I am far from frowning upon public platform instruction, so long as it is well measured, simple and practical. Mental indigestion and morbo-phobia may be more serious than German measles or infected tonsils and, therefore, such simple language as that used in the Sermon on the Mount is more fitting on the health rostrum than thundering eloquence or highly embellished illustration. Prince Edward Island has combined public health and education under one Ministry, and in so small a province

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 5 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 160)

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